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Arthur Sizemore and John Semi, Semmance, or Semoice. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 525.).

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# ARTHUR SIZEMORE AND JOHN SEMI, SEMMANCE, OR SEMOICE.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 525.]

AUGUST 2, 1856.

Mr. PRINGLE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

## REPORT.

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Neal Smith, administrator of Arthur Sizemore and the heirs of John Semi, or Semmance, sometimes spelled Semoice, report:*

These are claims for spoliations committed by the Creek nation of Indians upon such of their number as remained friendly to the United States in the war of 1813-'14. The liability of the government for these spoliations was first recognised by the act of April 27, 1816, authorizing the payment to Samuel Mannac of the sum of \$12,595 for property lost and destroyed by the acts of the hostile Creek Indians.

This whole subject was subsequently reported on by Mr. Lowndes, from the Committee of Ways and Means, on January 29, 1817, (see document 147, 2d session 14th Congress,) in which the conclusion is arrived at, that "if the friendly Creeks are to be considered as having consented to the cession made by the treaty of 1814, it was only on condition *that their claims to indemnity should not be disregarded.*"

Acting upon these views, Congress appropriated, by act of March 3, 1817, the sum of \$85,000, and by act of August 30, 1852, the sum of \$110,417 90—making in all the sum of \$195,417 90. This was the precise sum due to the friendly Indians, as per the report of General D. B. Mitchell to the Secretary of War, under date of March 18, 1818, who states that the gross amount then presented for liquidation was about \$300,000, which sum was afterwards reduced to \$195,417 90.

When this report by General Mitchell was submitted, it was accompanied with a supplementary abstract of additional claims of the same character in favor of the following persons:

Lucklin Deeraut.....	\$582
Richard Tarvin.....	600
Arthur Sizemore.....	1,420
Semmance .....	1,163
Peter Randon.....	5,925
Talmassee Emauthlan.....	80
<b>Making in all the sum of.....</b>	<b>9,770</b>

The largest of these claims, that of Peter Randon, in right of his father, John Randon, amounting to \$5,925, was presented to the last Congress and referred to this committee. Their report in favor of the claim was made on the 3d of August, 1854, (No. 360;) and provision for the payment of said amount was made in the appropriation bill of March 3, 1855, and the same has been paid to the parties in interest. There remains due in the aggregate, to the several claimants, therefore, only the sum of \$3,845; and believing that the past action of the government, as well as the demands of justice, require that these claims should be paid, they report a bill accordingly.